

CLAIMS

1. A method for performing a single print job between a plurality of
5 printers connected to a computer through a communication means,
comprising:

determining with said computer through which of said plurality of printers said
print job is to be transmitted so as to balance said print job between said
10 plurality of printers based upon a load balancing scheme;

transmitting through said communication means, said print job to said plurality
of printers based on said load balancing scheme;
15 printing said print job by said plurality of printers.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said load balancing scheme divides
said print job by sets.

20 3. The method of claim 1 wherein said load balancing scheme divides
said print job by sending pages with no color to black-and-white printers and
sends pages with color to color capable printers.

4. The method of claim 1 wherein said load balancing scheme divides
25 said print job by page number.

5. The method of claim 1 wherein said plurality of printers is user defined.

6. The method of claim 1 wherein a printer from said plurality of printers is removed upon an error.

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7. The method of claim 1 wherein said print job has a user defined priority.

8. The method of claim 7 wherein said priority puts said print job first amongst all queued print jobs.

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9. The method of claim 7 wherein said priority delays said print job until all other queued print jobs are performed.

10. The method of claim 7 wherein said priority queues said print job at a specific date and time.

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11. The method of Claim 7 wherein said user defined priority is a print speed threshold.

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12. The method of Claim 1 wherein a print job is rerouted in the event of printer error based upon factors which may include any of the state of any or all eligible printers, the type of error, user defined, and interactive options.

13. An apparatus for performing a single print job between a plurality of printers connected to a computer through a communication means,

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comprising:

a module for determining with said computer through which of said plurality of
printers said print job is to be transmitted so as to balance said print job
5 between said plurality of printers based upon a load balancing scheme;

a module for transmitting through said communication means, said print job to
said plurality of printers based on said load balancing scheme;

10 a module for printing said print job by said plurality of printers.

14. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said load balancing scheme divides
said print job by sets.

15 15. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said load balancing scheme divides
said print job by sending pages with no color to black-and-white printers and
sends pages with color to color capable printers.

16. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said load balancing scheme
20 divides said print job by page number.

17. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said plurality of printers is user
defined.

25 18. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein a printer from said plurality of
printers is removed upon an error.

19. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said print job has a user defined priority.

5 20. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said priority puts said print job first amongst all queued print jobs.

21. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said priority delays said print job until all other queued print jobs are performed.

10 22. The apparatus of claim 13 wherein said priority queues said print job at a specific date and time.

23. The apparatus of Claim 19 wherein said user defined priority is a print
15 speed threshold.

24. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein a print job is rerouted in the event of printer error based upon factors which may include any of the state of any or all, printers, the type of error, user defined options, and interactive options
20 eligible.